C.D.L.
No. 19
BLONDE PHANTOM
COMICS
10¢
CAN. ED.
CARLO, THE KILLER THREATENED TO KILL THAT PATIENT TONIGHT DURING THE OPERATION! HUMPH--- A FAT CHANCE HE'S GOT OF SNEAKING IN HERE WITH ALL OF US ON GUARD! SAY!! WHAT'S THIS? IT'S THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
STOP! DON'T LET HIM USE THAT KNIFE!!! HE'S CARLO HIMSELF!! THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR--- STOP HIM!

BLONDE PHANTOM

UNSUNG AND UNKNOWN ARE THE VAST NUMBERS OF FACTORY WATCHMEN WHO, DAILY AND NIGHTLY, GUARD AMERICA'S INDUSTRY! AND, TOO OFTEN, SCENES LIKE THIS TAKE PLACE!
BAM!
AGHH!
DAILY MAIL
EXTRA
SULLIVAN GUILTY!
JURY FINDS HIM GUILTY OF KILLING WATCHMAN DURING ROBBERY!
LATER, JIM SULLIVAN HAS A VISITOR..
FIFTEEN MINUTES, MISS!
ELAINE!
I SWEAR I'M INNOCENT, ELAINE! BIG DAN FOLSOM HID THAT GUN IN MY ROOM! IT WAS A FRAME-UP BECAUSE I WOULDN'T JOIN HIS GANG!
I BELIEVE YOU, JIM! I'LL NEVER STOP TRYING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!
BUT IT TAKES MONEY TO FIND EVIDENCE AND MONEY MEANS HARD WORK...
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT! YOU WANT TO PAY ME THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO DIG UP EVIDENCE PROVING JIM SULLIVAN WAS INNOCENT?
IT'S ALL THE MONEY I HAVE! I'VE WORKED HARD FOR EVERY CENT OF IT!

IT WASN'T EASY, MR. MASON! YOU SEE, I SPENT SOME MONEY INVESTIGATING ON MY OWN! BUT I FOUND IT WAS PRETTY HOPELESS! THAT'S WHY I CAME TO YOU!
IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR FOR ME TO ACCEPT THE CASE! I'VE SEEN THE EVIDENCE, AND IT LOOKS OPEN AND SHUT TO ME! YOUR BOY FRIEND'S GUILTY OF MURDER!
HE'S NOT! I'LL PROVE YOU'RE WRONG!
POOR GIRL! I FEEL SORRY FOR HER! SHE'S SO IN LOVE WITH THE GUY, THAT SHE CAN'T FACE FACTS!
I WONDER! I'D LIKE TO TALK TO HER!
EXCUSE ME, MARK! I'VE GOT TO RUN AN ERRAND!
SLAM!
MISS BROWN! WAIT A MINUTE, PLEASE!
I WANT TO TALK TO... OH, OH! TROUBLE!
THAT'S HER!
RAT-A-TAT-TAT!
DOWN!
WHE-EW! SOMEBODY MISTOOK YOU FOR A CLAY PIGEON IN A SHOOTING GALLERY!
THEY-THEY TRIED TO KILL ME!

THAT WAS THE GENERAL IDEA! THEY CAME MIGHTY CLOSE, TOO! WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO TAKE POT SHOTS AT YOU?
I-I CAN'T IMAGINE! UNLESS IT WAS SOMEONE WHO'D FOUND OUT THAT I WAS INVESTIGATING THE NIGHT WATCHMAN'S MURDER!
THEY WOULDN'T ATTEMPT ANOTHER MURDER UNLESS THEY WERE WORRIED THAT SHE MIGHT PROVE JIM SULLIVAN'S INNOCENCE! THAT POINTS THE FINGER PRETTY CLEARLY AT BIG DAN FOLSOM!
YOU GO ALONG HOME, ELAINE, AND LOCK YOURSELF IN YOUR ROOM WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE! I'M GOING TO GET THE BLONDE PHANTOM TO HELP YOU!
LATER, IN THE PRIVACY OF HER HOME, LOUISE GRANT UNDERGOES A STARTLING TRANSFORMATION INTO THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
THE CHIEF TESTIMONY AGAINST SULLIVAN CAME FROM PINKY DESMOND, A SMALL TIME GANGSTER AND GUNMAN! I'LL PAY HIM A VISIT!
BUT THERE'S ONE DETAIL I'D BETTER ARRANGE FOR ELAINE BROWN TO HANDLE- OR VISITING PINKY WILL BE A WASTE OF TIME!
LATER, IN PINKY DESMOND'S FURNISHED ROOM...
SULLIVAN'S GIRL ESCAPED OUR TRAP! THE HEAT MAY REALLY BE ON NOW! THIS DOUGH WILL SEE YOU SAFELY OUT OF TOWN!
THANKS, BIG DAN! I NEED A VACATION BEFORE THE COPS START ASKING TOO MANY QUESTIONS!
THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF I ASK QUESTIONS!
THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
4

EVEN THOUGH I CAN GUESS MOST OF THE ANSWERS!
BANG!
CRASH!
DON'T MOVE, PINKY, OR YOU WON'T LIVE TO REGRET IT!
GIMME A BREAK! I SURRENDER!
JIM SULLIVAN DIDN'T KILL THE WATCHMAN, DID HE? TALK!
N...NO! BIG DAN PULLED THE TRIGGER! I WAS WITH HIM ON THE JOB! LATER HE MADE ME HIDE THE GUN IN SULLIVAN'S ROOM! HONEST! THAT'S THE TRUTH!
THAT CONFESSION WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, PHANTOM! I'LL GET PINKY TO DENY IT IN COURT!
I THOUGHT OF THAT! SO I ARRANGED A LITTLE SURPRISE!
ELAINE BROWN'S TESTIMONY MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PREJUDICED! BUT ANY JUDGE AND JURY WILL BE GLAD TO ACCEPT A WIRE RECORDING OF PINKY'S CONFESSION AS EVIDENCE!
WHY---YOU!
AND NOW, GENTLEMEN, IF YOU DON'T MIND, WE HAVE A DATE WITH THE POLICE!
THE BLONDE PHANTOM WAS ENTITLED TO A REWARD FOR NABBING THAT WATCHMAN KILLER! BUT SHE GAVE IT TO JIM SULLIVAN AND HIS GIRL FOR A WEDDING PRESENT! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HER!
THE BLONDE PHANTOM PROBABLY GOT HER REWARD JUST SEEING JUSTICE DONE!
THE END
5

BLONDE PHANTOM
THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE OF US IN THIS STORY!
"HER DOUBLE TROUBLE!"
YES—THERE IS ROOM FOR ONLY ONE—BUT... WHICH ONE IS THE BLONDE PHANTOM? IT'S A DILEMMA AND ONE WHICH YOU WILL SHARE WITH THE REAL LADY CRIME-FIGHTER, AS YOU EMBARK ON THIS ADVENTURE OF MYSTERY, INTRIGUE AND... A MAD BRAIN IN A BEAUTIFUL HEAD!
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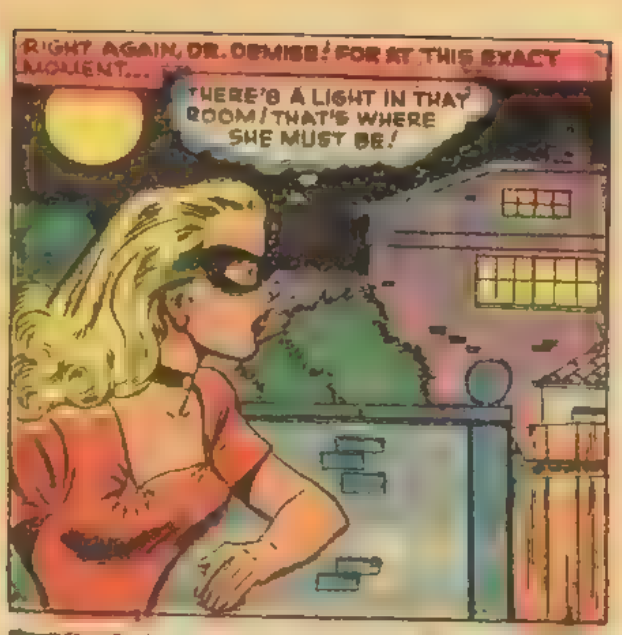
AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY FOR WOMEN, THE WARDEN DISCHARGES TWO INMATES, DORA SCOTT AND A WOMAN KNOWN AS DR. DEMISE...
TODAY YOU TWO WOMEN ARE FREE TO GO OUT AND MAKE A NEW START!
THANK YOU, WARDEN!

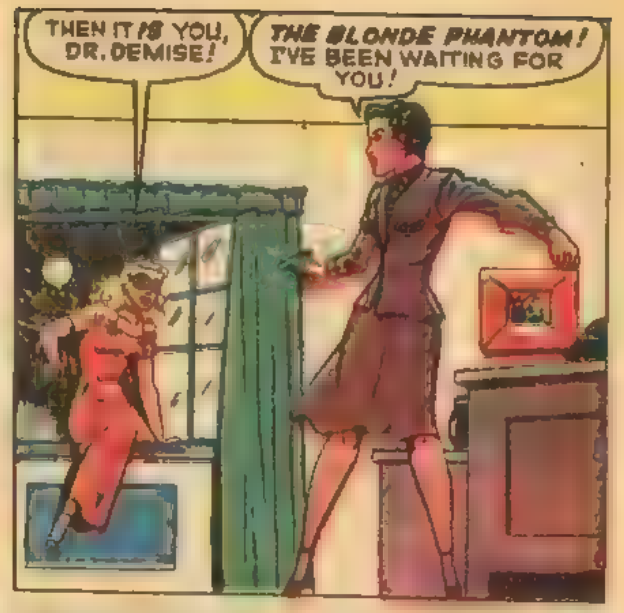
SURELY, DR. DEMISE, A WOMAN OF YOUR INTELLIGENCE AND TRAINING WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING A POSITION, EVEN THOUGH YOUR LICENSE HAS BEEN REVOKED!
I INTEND TO GO INTO RESEARCH WORK!
11

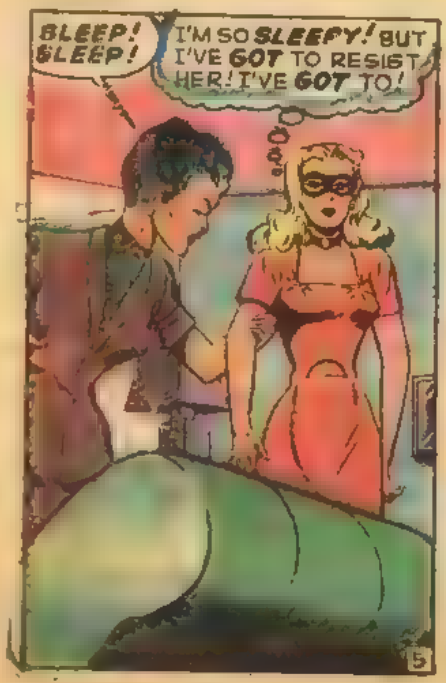
GOOD LUCK TO BOTH OF YOU!
THANK YOU, WARDEN! I TRUST YOU WON'T TAKE OFFENSE IF I SAY I DON'T INTEND TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
BUT THOUGH SHE SPEAKS LIGHTLY, DEEP WITHIN A SEETHING HATRED BURNS...
YES, WARDEN! I'M GOING TO DO RESEARCH WORK! RESEARCH ON THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BLONDE PHANTOM AND THAT STUPID DETECTIVE, MARK MASON!
WELL, WHAT'S OUR FIRST MOVE, DOC? YOU SAID YOU HAD A SCHEME UP YOUR SLEEVE!
I HAVE! AND YOU, DORA SCOTT, ARE PART OF IT! YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME EVEN UP AN OLD SCORE!
AN HOUR LATER, THE WOMEN ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION!
NO KIDDING, DOC! IS THIS LAYOUT REALLY YOURS?
NOW MAYBE YOU'LL BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT I WAS ONCE ONE OF THE FOREMOST MEDICAL MINDS IN THE COUNTRY!
YEAH! MAYBE I WILL BELIEVE YOU! BUT HOW COME SOMEONE LIKE YOU HAS BEEN SPENDING TWO YEARS ROTTING UP IN THAT PLACE?
BECAUSE OF THAT MEDDLING BLONDE PHANTOM! I WAS ON THE VERGE OF A GREAT DISCOVERY IN PLASTIC SURGERY— BUT I NEEDED GUINEA PIGS! HUMAN ONES!
THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION REFUSED TO LET ME EXPERIMENT, SO I STARTED TO GO AHEAD ANYWAY! I WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED, TOO, IF THE BLONDE PHANTOM HADN'T STOPPED ME! MY LICENSE WAS REVOKED AND MY WORK STOPPED! BUT IN A FEW WEEKS I SHALL HAVE MY REVENGE!
WHERE DO I COME IN?
YOU, MY DEAR, ARE GOING TO BECOME THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
WHAT? ME? YES... SURE! ANYTHING YOU SAY, DR. DEMISE!

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF MARK MASON, PRIVATE DETECTIVE...
THIS LETTER! MARK, COME HERE!
WHAT'S UP, LOUISE?
I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT HER! WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE'LL DO, MARK?
IT'S JUST A CRANK NOTE, LOUISE! SHE WON'T DARE TRY ANYTHING AGAIN! THE POLICE WOULD PICK HER UP TOO QUICKLY!
DR. DEMISE IS NOW FREE, AND SHE HASN'T FORGOTTEN!
DR. DEMISE! THE PLASTIC SURGEON WHO THOUGHT SHE COULD CREATE A NEW PERSONALITY BY HYPNOSIS TO GO WITH A NEW FACE! I WONDER...
AND WELL LOUISE GRANT MIGHT WONDER, IF SHE COULD HAVE SEEN THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEKS!
NOW—THE LIVING PROOF OF MY GENIUS! THE CREATION OF THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
HOW MUCH LONGER DO I HAVE TO KEEP THESE BANDAGES ON?
BE PATIENT! THERE MUST BE NO CHANCE OF FAILURE! THIS OPERATION MUST BE PERFECT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR NEW FACE?
HEY! I LOOK JUST LIKE THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
WRONG AGAIN, MY DEAR! YOU ARE THE BLONDE PHANTOM! YOU ARE THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
YES, DR. DEMISE! I... AM THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
THAT NIGHT ON BROADWAY...
LOOK! IT'S THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
I AM THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
3

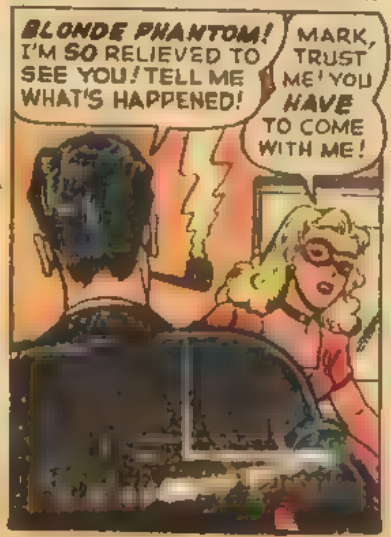
PEOPLE ARE SHOCKED TO SEE...
I AM THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
OOOH!
BANG
THE NEXT MORNING'S PAPERS CARRY A STRANGE STORY...
THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! THE BLONDE PHANTOM WOULDN'T...
WHAT?
DAILY HERALD
BLONDE PHANTOM KILLS MAN IN COLD BLOOD!
WITNESSES IDENTIFY FORMER CRIME FIGHTER...
LOUISE, I'M GOING DOWN TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS! MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE A LEAD FOR ME!
WHO POSING AS ME?
DR. DEMISE! SHE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ALL THIS! BUT IF I GO TO SEE HER AS THE BLONDE PHANTOM, THE POLICE WILL PICK ME UP! BUT I'LL HAVE TO RISK IT!
AT THIS EXACT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF TOWN...
I AM THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
IT'S THE BLONDE PHANTOM AGAIN! SHE'S GONE CRAZY!
BANG
LATER...
WERE YOU SUCCESSFUL?
YES! I DID EXACTLY AS YOU SAID!
YOU DID WELL! NOW SLEEP—SLEEP!
AND NOW IF I DON'T MISS MY GUESS, THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO BRING A VISIT FROM THE BLONDE PHANTOM HERSELF!







INTRICATE AND THOROUGH IS THE PLAN OF DR. CARLA DEMISE! AN HOUR LATER, DORA, AS THE BLONDE PHANTOM, ENTERS THE OFFICE OF MARK MASON...



MINUTES LATER...
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS MOMENT, MARK MASON!
DR. DEMISE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO?
TONIGHT YOU SHALL DESTROY YOURSELF, MARK MASON! AND WITH YOU SHALL DIE YOUR REPUTATION AS A FIGHTER OF CRIME!
YOU SHALL DESTROY, AS I'LL MAKE OTHERS LIKE YOU DESTROY—ALL OF YOU WHO ARE ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW! AND I SHALL CREATE OTHERS TO TAKE YOUR PLACES, AS I HAVE CREATED A NEW BLONDE PHANTOM!
YOU'RE CRAZY! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE BLONDE PHANTOM?
FORGET HER! THERE IS A NEW ONE TO TAKE HER PLACE! FORGET! FORGET!
I FEEL SO STRANGE!
GET READY, BLONDE PHANTOM! TONIGHT I SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU TO WASHINGTON SQUARE TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO MISTAKES!
AFTER THEY HAVE LEFT, THE REAL BLONDE PHANTOM ATTEMPTS TO RISE...
OH! I FEEL SO GROGGY! GOT TO SNAP OUT OF IT... GOT TO HELP MARK! GOT TO STOP DR. DEMISE OR SHE'LL ACTUALLY CARRY OUT THAT MAD PLAN OF HERS!
A FEW MINUTES LATER... THE STRONG MIND OF THE BLONDE PHANTOM CLEARS!
THIS FELLOW IS HEADED IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF WASHINGTON SQUARE! I'VE GOT TO BEAT THEM THERE!
AT THE SQUARE SHE SEES...
MARK, YOU MUST KILL THAT POLICEMAN! HE IS YOUR ENEMY!
ENEMY! MUST KILL!
6

MARK! STOP! MARK!
THE BLONDE PHANTOM! KILL HER, MARK!
THE CONFUSED MIND OF MARK CAN ONLY FOLLOW ORDERS!
MUST KILL HER!
MARK! DON'T LISTEN TO HER! IT'S ME-THE BLONDE PHANTOM! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
RISKING ALL, THE BLONDE PHANTOM STRUGGLES AGAINST THE HYPNOSIS OF THE EVIL DR. DEMISE...
THE BLONDE PHANTOM? WHAT'S HAPPENING? I FEEL SO FUNNY!
KILL THEM! KILL THEM BOTH!
BUT SOMETHING STRONGER THAN HYPNOSIS IS AT WORK!
NOT SO FAST, MY FRIEND!
---KILL HER!
THAT'S FOR YOU, MY REASONABLE FACSIMILE!
NOW I REMEMBER!
NO, YOU DON'T, DR. DEMISE! YOU'RE GOING DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS TO TELL THEM A VERY INTERESTING STORY!
AFTER THE SITUATION HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO AN AMAZED POLICE DEPARTMENT...
YOU KNOW, MARK, WHEN YOU POINTED THAT GUN AT ME, I WAS REALLY WORRIED FOR A WHILE!
I NEVER COULD HAVE HURT YOU, BLONDE PHANTOM! I HATE TO SOUND CORNY, BUT LOVE IS STI... A STRONGER FORCE THAN EVIL!

SUB-MARINER

Battles THE PLAYBOY KILLER!

THERE IS NO FURY LIKE A LOVE THAT IS SCORNED - AND NO ACTION LIKE THE EXCITEMENT WHEN *SUB-MARINER* AND *NAMORA* FIND THAT LOVE AND HATE CAN SOMETIMES BE VERY CLOSE!

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COME WITH US ABOARD THE YACHT OF PLAYBOY NICK GAYNOR AN INNOCENT BEGINNING FOR WHAT IS TO FOLLOW IS THE SCENE ON DECK, AS THE HOST SPEAKS TO HIS GUESTS OF HONOR

WELL, KATHY, EVEN THOUGH I'M YOUR REJECTED SUITOR AND YOU'RE ENGAGED TO BARRY, DON'T EVER SAY THAT NICKY GAYNOR LET YOU DOWN! EVERYBODY IS HERE - INCLUDING SUB-MARINER AND HIS GIRL FRIEND!

NICKY, IT'S SWEET OF YOU TO GIVE US THIS ENGAGEMENT PARTY!

I'M GLAD THERE ARE NO HARD FEELINGS! WHEN KATHY TOLD YOU SHE WOULD MARRY ME, I THOUGHT YOU'D GET SORE!

BARRY, I'M NICKY GAYNOR! GALS *ALWAYS* REFUSE TO MARRY ME! DO YOU THINK I FEEL BAD? NO! KATHY MAKES HER OWN DECISIONS - AND I GIVE THE PARTY! HAVE FUN, KIDS! IT'S YOUR PARTY! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

HOW ARE THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF THE BRINY DEEP? HAVING FUN?
SWELL, GAYNOR! BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D TURNED NOBLE – GIVING AN ENGAGEMENT PARTY FOR THE GIRL WHO REJECTED YOU!
YES, NICK. QUITE A CHANGE FROM THE OLD SOREHEAD YOU USED TO BE!
OH, WELL! SAY, UH-CAPTAIN, YOU CAN TAKE THE SHIP FOR A SPIN NOW!
YEAH. SURE, MR. GAYNOR! I'LL GET SOMEBODY TO TAKE THE ANCHOR OUT OF THE WATER. YEAH!
IS THAT A NEW MASTER YOU HAVE, GAYNOR?
HIM? HE'S BEEN WITH ME FOR YEARS! AN OLD CAPE COD FISHING CAPTAIN, YOU KNOW! KNOWS THE SEA LIKE THE PALM OF HIS HAND! EXCUSE ME, NOW, I HAVE TO SEE HOW MY GUESTS ARE DOING!
DID YOU HEAR THAT SO-CALLED CAPTAIN? NO SEAFARING MAN WOULD EVER SAY, "TAKE THE ANCHOR OUT OF THE WATER!" HE'D SAY, "WEIGH ANCHOR!"
RIGHT! HE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE ANY CAPE COD CAPTAIN TO ME, EITHER! I THINK WE'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!
MAJESTICALLY THE TRIM CRAFT MOVES AHEAD WHILE THE STAGE IS SET FOR A STRANGE DRAMA
AND THE TWO LOVERS MAKE THEIR HAPPY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE .
WHAT A NIGHT, HONEY! LET'S REMEMBER IT – ALWAYS!
I COULDN'T FORGET ANY THING AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS!
BUT OTHER PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THEM! THE FIRST STEP IS . .
I... AHHH!
BARRY! MMMPAFT!
2

SHE'S FAINTED! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
YEAH! THE MOTOR BOAT IS FOLLOWING US! I'LL SET OFF THE FIRE BOMB. GIVE THE ALARM AND RAISE A FUSS WHILE YOU LUG THE DAME OUTSIDE INTO THE BOAT!
LATER, WHILE THE PARTY GOES ON IN THE SHIP SALON.
NAMOR! LOOK! SMOKE!
I'LL SEE IF I CAN TRACE IT BEFORE THERE'S A PANIC!
BUT AT THAT MOMENT
FIRE! FIRE!
SHUT UP, YOU FOOL! YOU'LL CAUSE A PANIC!
NAMOR TAKES DECISIVE ACTION.
TAKE IT EASY! MOVE UP TO THE DECK AND STAND BY THE LIFEBOATS! LET THE WOMEN GO FIRST, AND THE FIRST MAN WHO MAKES A MOVE WILL ANSWER TO ME!
YES, WE'LL HURRY!
STEP LIVELY! THERE'S NO DANGER!
THE CROWD MOVES OBEDIENTLY, AND SOON THE LIFEBOATS ARE LOWERED---AND ON DECK...
HMM. WHAT'S NICK DOING WITH KATHY, AND WHERE'S BARRY?
KEEP AN EYE ON GAYNOR! I'M GOING TO FIND BARRY!
NAMOR HURRIES ALONG THE DECK LOOKING INTO THE LIFEBOATS - BUT FINDS NO SIGN OF BARRY...
HE MUST STILL BE ABOARD! I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
MEANWHILE...
HMMM, THAT'S FUNNY! THE CAPTAIN SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE LAST MAN OFF THE SHIP, AND THERE HE'S LEAVING!
NAMORA MY GIRL, THIS IS BEGINNING TO ADD UP TO SOMETHING - AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT! I HOPE NAMOR IS HAVING BETTER LUCK!
3

NAMOR IS AFTER A HURRIED SEARCH OF THE SHIP, HE FINDS...
BARRY! I KNEW THERE WAS DIRTY WORK HERE!
HE QUICKLY RELEASES BARRY, AND...
COME ON! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! I SAW NICK WITH KATHY! DID HE SLUG YOU?
I-I DON'T KNOW! BUT IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO KATHY, I'LL...
HURRY! THEY WENT OFF IN THAT DIRECTION - IN A MOTOR BOAT!
WE'LL CATCH THEM! GET ON MY BACK, BARRY! YOU'RE GOING FOR A LITTLE RIDE! COME ON, NAMORA! THIS SHIP IS LIABLE TO BLOW UP ANY MINUTE!
EVEN THOUGH HE IS IMPEDED BY THE WEIGHT OF BARRY, NAMOR CHURNS THROUGH THE WATER AT UNBELIEVABLE SPEED! FOR HERE IN HIS OWN ELEMENT, THE PRINCE OF THE DEEP IS AT HIS BEST!
THERE'S THE BOAT!
OKAY, NAMORA! THEY WON'T GET AWAY!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S SUB-MARINER!
WE'LL SEE HOW HOW HE LIKES LEAD!
I DON'T LIKE LEAD - BUT WE'LL SEE HOW THE FISH LIKE YOU!
TALK, GAYNOR, BEFORE I LET YOU HAVE SOME MORE!
I-I WAS INSANELY JEALOUS WHEN KATHY CHOSE YOU! SO I WORKED UP THIS WHOLE PLOT!
THE CAPTAIN WAS CHARLIE MANELLI, AN ARSONIST... AND... NOW I SEE HOW WRONG I WAS!
YOU'LL BE A LOT WRONGER WHEN THE JUDGE FINISHES SENTENCING YOU! THERE'S A BIG PENALTY FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER, YOU KNOW!
NAMOR FISHES THE CAPTAIN OUT OF THE WATER AND, TOGETHER WITH NICK, TURNS THEM OVER TO THE POLICE...
BARRY!
KATHY!
COME ON, NAMORA THEY DON'T WANT US AROUND!
ISN'T LOVE WONDERFUL?
4

BLONDE PHANTOM
RHAPSODY IN DEATH!"
THIS LAND OF OURS IS FILLED WITH SMALL-TIME MUSICIANS, WAITING FOR THE DAY WHEN THEY HIT THE TOP. BUT HARRY CHARLES AND HIS SWINGSTERS NEVER DREAMED THEY WOULD SHARE TOP BILLING WITH THE DAZZLING BLONDE PHANTOM IN A PERFORMANCE OF DOOM!
5205
TEN CENTS! ONE THIN, LONESOME DIME!
THAT DIME IS ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN US AND BEING FLAT BROKE! IF WE DON'T GET A JOB IN THIS TOWN WE'RE WASHED UP!
DON'T FEEL BAD, HARRY!
INCOMING BUS

YOU CAN ALWAYS GO BACK TO PLAYING A SOLO TRUMPET! AND MOST OF THE BOYS CAN LAND SOME KIND OF A JOB!
I HATE TO SEE THE OUTFIT BREAK UP! IF ONLY SOMEONE WOULD GIVE US A CHANCE TO PROVE WE'VE GOT THE STUFF! GUESS I'LL INVEST PART OF THIS DIME IN A NEWSPAPER!
HARRY CHARLES
SAY! HERE'S SOMETHING! "MR AND MRS SCHUYLER ARE GIVING A BANQUET FOR THE RENOWNED MUSICAL CRITIC, GREGORY FROST!"
WHAT DOES THAT BUY US?
DON'T YOU SEE? IF WE CAN PLAY AT THE SCHUYLER'S SHINDIG, WE MAY MAKE A DENT ON GREGORY FROST!
GOLLY! WE'D REALLY BE TRAVELING IN HIGH GEAR! IT'S WORTH A TRY, HARRY!
I'LL PAY THE SCHUYLERS A VISIT. WISH ME LUCK, GANG!
I'LL SAVE YOUR SHARE OF THE BENCH! AFTER ALL, YOU'LL NEED SOMEPLACE TO SLEEP TONIGHT!
LATER, AT THE SCHUYLER MANSION...
HMM! YOUR NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS SEEM QUITE FAVORABLE!
WE'RE WILLING TO WORK FOR A MINIMUM FEE, MR SCHUYLER!
YOU'RE ENGAGED FOR THE EVENING! THIS WILL, OF COURSE, BE THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE SEASON, SO I HOPE YOUR MUSIC WILL BE OF AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD!
GULP! I'LL SAY IT WILL! --ER, I MEAN-- DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, MR. SCHUYLER!
WE'RE IN, GANG! WE MADE IT!
WONDERFUL! I KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH, HARRY!
GOING BUSSES
AND SO HARRY CHARLES BRINGS THE GOOD NEWS TO HIS WAITING CREW -- BUT IS IT GOOD NEWS? READ ON-

BUT THE BANQUET IS TOMORROW NIGHT! THAT STILL LEAVES US THE PROBLEM OF WHERE TO SLEEP TONIGHT!
SQUIRREL-NEST MANOR! AND I DO MEAN PUBLIC PARK! I HEAR IT'S FREE AND PERFECTLY AIR CONDITIONED!
THAT NIGHT...
YAWN-NNN! SLEEP TIGHT!
YEAH! AND DON'T LET THE PIGEONS BITE!
AND AT THIS MOMENT, NOT FAR DISTANT...
WELL, IF IT ISN'T MY OLD FRIEND, NICK SYMES!
THE BLONDE PHANTOM!!!
YOU'VE BEEN LYING LOW A LONG TIME, NICK! I'LL BET YOU'RE RUNNING LOW OF FUNDS!
UGHHH!
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D STOOP TO ROBBING A TOY FACTORY!
HUP!
HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN!
WHOOSH!
DON'T LOOK NOW, PHANTOM! BUT THERE'S SOMEBODY BEHIND YOU!
POOF!
3

OHEEE-EEEEE!
BLONDE PHANTOMS OUT COLD!
BEAT IT! HERE COME THE COPS! LISTEN TO THAT SIREN!
THE WHOLE CITY'S ALIVE WITH COPS!
THERE'S ONE PLACE WE CAN HIDE OUT! IF ONLY WE CAN REACH THE PUBLIC PARK!
SOON.
SO FAR SO GOOD! ULP! I TRIPPED OVER SOMETHING!
HEY!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? CAN'T A GUY GET ANY SLEEP?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I PLAY THE SAX IN HARRY CHARLES BAND! WE'RE KINDA BROKE AND THE BOYS DECIDED TO ROUGH IT!
THAT SO? WE'RE TAKING ROOMS IN THE SAME HOTEL!
AS THE WEARY HOURS OF NIGHT DRAW TO A CLOSE
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SAFE NICK! THE COPS DIDN'T SHOW UP!
I'VE BEEN TALKING TO THAT SAXOPHONE PLAYER! HE GAVE ME AN IDEA!
WE NEED DOUGH BAD! THE GUYS ARE PLAYING AT A SWANKY RECEPTION AT THE SCHUYLER MANSION TONIGHT! NOW HERE'S THE PLAN...
4

NEXT DAY, AS HARRY CHARLES AND HIS GANGSTERS ARE ENROUTE TO THE SCHUYLER MANSION...
MAYBE THIS GUY WILL GIVE US A LIFT!
WOW! LOOK AT THE WAY HE SPUN THAT CAR AROUND!
WHAT TH'...?
DON'T TRY ANY HEROICS! MY PAL, HERE, HAS A NERVOUS TRIGGER FINGER!
IF THIS IS A STICKUP, YOU PICKED THE WRONG VICTIMS! WE'RE SO BROKE IT HURTS!
YOU'RE PLAYING FOR THE SCHUYLERS TONIGHT... BUT THERE'S A SLIGHT CHANGE IN THE PROGRAM! ME AND MY BOYS ARE GONNA BE IN YOUR ORCHESTRA!
YOU MUST BE CRAZY! YOU ARE NOT MUSICIANS!
YOU CAN FAKE ENOUGH TO COVER US! I'M LEAVING ONE OF MY BOYS HERE WITH YOUR GIRL FRIEND... JUST SO YOU PLAY IT MY WAY!
MEANWHILE... AT THE SCHUYLER MANSION...
I'M DEPENDING ON YOU, MASON, TO SEE TO IT THAT NO UNINVITED GUESTS APPEAR!
YOU WON'T BE DISTURBED, MR. SCHUYLER!
THE BIG SHOT'S WORRIED THAT A COUPLE OF CRASHERS MIGHT GET INTO HIS PRIVATE BLOW-OFF! FUNNY, EH, LOUISE?
THERE'LL BE A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF JEWELRY ON DISPLAY... HE SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT THAT! IT'S PRACTICALLY AN ENGRAVED INVITATION TO CROOKS!
SCHUYLER
HOLD IT! ALL GUESTS HAVE TO SHOW THEIR INVITATIONS!
'SOKAY! MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA THAT'S PLAYING TONIGHT!
5

WHAT A JOB I'VE GOT! WHEN I TOOK OUT A PRIVATE DETECTIVE'S LICENSE, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BECOME A GLORIFIED BUTLER!
I RECOGNIZED ONE OF THE MEN IN THAT STATION WAGON! SLATS LOUIE, NICK SYMES' HENCHMAN! AND THAT FELLOW WITH HIS HAT PULLED DOWN LOOKED LIKE NICK HIMSELF!
SO LONG, MARK! I'M GOING TO PEEK IN AT THE PARTY! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES!
HEY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT, LOUISE! I'M SUPPOSED TO KEEP CRASHERS OUT!
BUT MARK MASON DOESN'T KNOW THAT HIS SECRETARY, LOUISE GRANT, IS REALLY THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
I'M GLAD I KEPT MY COSTUME IN THIS HIDDEN COMPARTMENT! THE BLONDE PHANTOM MAY BE NEEDED TONIGHT!
LATER...IN THE GRAND BALLROOM OF THE SCHUYLER MANSION...
I-I CAN'T KEEP MY MIND ON WHAT I'M DOING...AND NEITHER CAN THE BOYS! WHAT A SPOT TO BE IN...AND ON OUR FIRST, BIG CHANCE, TOO!
AND AT THE TABLE OF GREGORY FROST, THE MUSIC CRITIC...
DID YOU ENGAGE A GROUP OF AMATEUR MUSICIANS, MR. SCHUYLER? THEY AREN'T VERY GOOD!
QUITE SO! I...UH...INTEND TO TALK TO THIS HARRY CHARLES AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY!
SUDDENLY, THE MUSIC IS INTERRUPTED BY A COLD, STERN VOICE!
TIME FOR INTERMISSION, FOLKS!
8

NOW MY MEN WILL PASS AMONG YOU TO TAKE UP A COLLECTION!
EEK! IT'S A ROBBERY!
A NEAT LITTLE SCHEME! BUT IT'S GONE QUITE FAR ENOUGH!
WHA-? YOU AGAIN!
THANKS FOR THE CRASHING WELCOME!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE, BOYS! LET'S GO!
HUHHH?
MOMENTS LATER...
BUT MY GIRL—AND TWO OF MY MUSICIANS—THEY'RE BEING HELD CAPTIVE NEAR THE HIGHWAY HALF A MILE DOWN! IF NICK DOESN'T SHOW UP, THEY'LL BE KILLED!
NOT MUCH FIGHT LEFT IN THEM!
STOP WORRYING! I'LL HANDLE THIS!
IT'S NEARLY THE DEADLINE NOW! WHAT'S KEEPING NICK?
MAYBE HE BLEW HIS BRAINS OUT--- ON A TUBA!
7

SMART BOY, AINCHA? IF NICK DOESN'T SHOW UP IN ONE MINUTE, I'M GONNA BLAST YOU AND LAM OUTA HERE!
I WAS ONLY KIDDING!
BUT I'M NOT!
BANG!
EE-OOW!
NICK'S BEEN UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED! BUT DON'T WORRY! I'LL TAKE YOU TO MEET HIM... IN JAIL!
THE BLONDE PHANTOM! THANK HEAVENS!
BACK AT THE SCHUYLER MANSION!
THE BOYS ARE RIGHT BACK ON THE BEAM AGAIN!
WHEN I'M ALONE WITH YOU!
EX'TR'INARY! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S THE SAME BAND! THEY'RE REMARKABLY GOOD... AND I INTEND TO SAY SO IN MY COLUMN ... TOMORROW!
HMM... QUITE SO... QUITE SO!
AFTER THE GUESTS HAVE DEPARTED...
EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT HARRY CHARLES' BAND! HEARD THEM AS WE WERE LEAVING!
THEY'RE GOOD, MARK! THEIR SUCCESS IS LONG OVERDUE!
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE BLONDE PHANTOM, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE CRACKED THIS CASE! ISN'T SHE WONDERFUL, LOUISE?
YES, I SUPPOSE SO, MARK!
OH, WHEN WILL HE THINK AS MUCH ABOUT ME?
THE END